

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

D. T. E. 01-50

Petition of Blackstone Gas Company pursuant to General Laws Chapter 164, § 94, and 220 C.M.R. §§ 5.00 et seq., for a General Increase in Gas Rates.

The Department of Telecommunications and Energy ("Department") has received the petition of Blackstone Gas Company ("Blackstone" or "Company") for a \$220,067 increase in its base rates for firm gas customers. At the same time the Company proposes to redesign rates to more closely reflect the actual costs of providing service to each customer class. The Company last received a general rate increase in November of 1996. The Department has docketed this matter as D.T.E. 01-50, and suspended the effective date of the rate increase until December 1, 2001, in order to investigate the propriety of the Company's request.

If the Company's petition is approved, the proposed rates would:

- result in a 18.4 percent increase in the Company's annual revenues;
- represent an approximate increase of \$9.81 per month to \$81.47 per month for residential gas non-heating customers using 20 to 50 therms per month in the winter season; and
- represent an approximate increase of \$27.74 per month to \$213.77 per month for residential gas heating customers using 100 to 175 therms per month in the winter season.

Impacts for commercial and industrial customers will vary. For specific impacts, or further information on the Company's proposal, please contact the Company as shown below:

Mr. James Wojcik, President
Blackstone Gas Company
61 Main Street
Blackstone, MA 01504

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(508) 883-9516

A copy of the Company's petition and filing is available for inspection at the Department's offices at One South Station, 2nd Floor, Boston, Massachusetts; and at the offices of the Company, 61 Main Street, Blackstone, Massachusetts.

Persons interested in commenting on the Company's filing may appear at the public hearing or file written comments with: Mary L. Cottrell, Secretary, D.T.E. 01-50, Department of Telecommunications and Energy, One South Station, Boston, MA 02110.

The Department will conduct a public hearing on the Company's petition on:

Wednesday, June 27, 2001 at 7:00 PM

Main Meeting Room, Blackstone Municipal Center,

15 St. Paul Street

Blackstone, Massachusetts

Any person who desires to participate in the evidentiary phase of the proceeding concerning the above petition must file an original and two copies of a written petition for leave to intervene or to participate in the proceeding not later than the close of business (5:00 p.m.) on Tuesday July 3, 2001 with Mary L. Cottrell, Secretary, Department of Telecommunications and Energy, One South Station, 2nd Floor, Boston, MA. 02110 and one copy with the Company's attorney: Andrew J. Newman, Rubin and Rudman LLP, 50 Rowes Wharf Boston, MA 02110-3319, (617) 330-7000.

A petition to intervene must satisfy the timing and substantive requirements of 220 C.M.R. § 1.03, including a description of the manner in which the petitioner is substantially and specifically affected by this proceeding. Receipt by the Department -- not mailing -- constitutes filing and determines whether a petition has been timely filed. A late filed petition may be disallowed as untimely, unless good cause is shown under 220 C.M.R. § 1.01 (4). To be allowed, a petition under 220 C.M.R. § 1.03 (1) must satisfy the standing requirements of G.L. c. 30A, § 10.

All written pleadings or comments also must be submitted to the Department in electronic format using one of the following methods: (1) by e-mail attachment to dte.efiling@state.ma.us; or (2) on a 3.5" floppy diskette, IBM-compatible format. The text of the e-mail or the diskette label must specify: (1) an easily identifiable case caption; (2) docket number; (3) name of the person or company

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submitting the filing, and (4) a brief descriptive title of the document (e.g. comments or petition to intervene). The electronic filing should also include the name, title and phone number of a person to contact in the event of questions about the filing. Text responses should be written in either Word Perfect (naming the document with a ".wpd" suffix) or in Microsoft Word, (naming the document with a ".doc" suffix). Data or spreadsheet responses should be compatible with Microsoft Excel. Documents submitted in electronic format will be posted on the Department's Website, <http://www.magnet.state.ma.us/dpu>.